



## Invitation to Participate 2014 C3: Conversation. Creativity. Community.

# Core Sample

*a work of Significant Developments*



Significant Developments invites you to be part of the *Core Sample* survey by submitting a drawing of your symbol by mail or digitally to:

Mississippi Museum of Art  
Core Sample Symbol Survey  
c/o Significant Developments, LLC  
380 South Lamar Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

[daniel@significantdevelopments.us](mailto:daniel@significantdevelopments.us)

The Mississippi Museum of Art - (the Museum) has hired local strategic advancement agency Significant Developments to conduct a work of art which surveys and presents the symbols of Mississippi identity.

Mississippians are invited to submit the symbols they feel resonate with their own identity and the identities of their communities; the symbols may be completely new or millennia old. At the Museum, the impression of each symbol will be made onto a ceramic bell and the collection displayed as an installation in The Art Garden.

A ceramic bell workshop is operating Thursdays 10 AM - 2 PM and Saturdays 1 - 5 PM at the Museum December 12, 2013 – March 14, 2014. Participants are welcome to join the Significant Developments team in the workshop for conversation and to learn the hand-building ceramic process by making and inscribing bells.

On March 20, 2014 a public installation will be unveiled displaying the results of this survey.

For our purpose, a symbol is an emblem or sign used to represent something else. We are surrounded by symbols every day in our brands, organizations, religions, and more. Participants are welcome to use combinations of symbols or create their own symbols if they do not feel pre-existing symbols are adequate.

To set a group appointment or for questions contact:  
[daniel@significantdevelopments.us](mailto:daniel@significantdevelopments.us)  
[cpeaster@msmuseumart.org](mailto:cpeaster@msmuseumart.org)

This project is made possible with support from Alternate ROOTS.



Significant Developments, LLC Aesthetic Solutions • Strategic Advancement



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# Conversation Starter

Symbols are everywhere.

On our clothing, on our walls, on the packaging of the food that we eat.

What are some symbols you think of? (examples include the recycling symbol, the Nike swoosh and the deer crossing street sign)

Artists often work in symbols, using many simple strokes to create images which 'stand for' or represent something else.

Mexican artist Adolfo Best Maugard (1891-1964) created a simple set of seven motifs which he used to make thousands of complex designs. Maugard determined this set of motifs through observing the natural world. He believed that all the forms of our environment, from cats to mountains, could be expressed with combinations of these 7 motifs:

Spiral



Circle



Half-Circle



Two Half-Circles



Straight Line



Wavy Line



Zig Zag Line



For additional research on the use of these seven motifs, Significant Developments refers participants to Maugard's book *A Method for Creative Design*, and the work of Mississippi artist Walter Anderson on display in The Mississippi Story exhibition at the Mississippi Museum of Art.

Walter Anderson was a skilled outdoorsman devoted to depicting the wilderness of the Mississippi gulf coast and barrier islands. Anderson would spend weeks away from home, crawling and climbing into the most inhospitable places to capture his vision of Mississippi in drawings and watercolors.

Inspired by the seven motifs of Best Maugard, Walter Anderson developed a unique style of rhythmic lines and shapes which celebrated pattern as much as the natural forms they came together to create. His emblematic style presented Mississippi with a pulse patterned into the fabric of its animals and vegetation. He inscribed many of his compositions onto clay vessels at the Anderson family studio Shearwater Pottery.

Walter Anderson's works will offer examples of how to use these simple strokes to form a complex image symbolizing your experience. Visit his family's web site [www.walteringlisanderson.com/gallery](http://www.walteringlisanderson.com/gallery).

**Use the attached handout to sketch symbols of the places, objects or activities you think are important to Mississippi identity.**





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# *Sketch Your Symbol*

Use this sheet to sketch out symbols you feel are important to your experience. When you have decided which symbol you would like to submit, draw it on a card or circle it on this page and mail it to the Mississippi Museum of Art. You may also scan your image and email it to [symbols@significantdevelopments.us](mailto:symbols@significantdevelopments.us).

Remember, these symbols will be carved in clay making an impression. There will be no color. Any dark lines or shading will be understood as clay to be removed.

If you feel stumped, play with Maugard's seven motifs and look at some of Walter Anderson's works.



*Dick Whittington's Cat* by Walter Anderson © 2001